

1 *pl. Sub C* 2. (Amended) The inflation assembly of claim 13 wherein at least
2 a portion of the supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material comprises a plurality of
3 cylindrical annular-shaped grains axially aligned end to end along the length of the
4 tubular member.

1 3. (Amended) The inflation assembly of claim 2 wherein the
2 cylindrical annular-shaped grains comprise an inner surface at least partially coated
3 with an ignition enhancing material.

1 4. (Amended) The inflation assembly of claim 2 wherein the
2 cylindrical annular-shaped grains form an internal cavity longitudinally extending
3 substantially through the supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material, the inflator
4 additionally comprising an elongated ignition article extending within the internal
5 cavity.

1 5. (Amended) The inflation assembly of claim 13 additionally
2 comprising a gas diffusible containment member within the elongated hollow tubular
3 member and surrounding at least a portion of the supply of pyrotechnic gas generant
4 material.

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1 6. (Amended) The inflation assembly of claim 5 wherein the gas
2 diffusible containment member comprises an expanded metal.

1 7. (Amended) An inflator comprising:
2 an elongated hollow tubular member containing an elongated supply of
3 pyrotechnic gas generant material reactable to produce a supply of gas, the tubular
4 member having a length to diameter ratio greater than 20 and including a plurality of
5 longitudinally-spaced apart gas exit orifices wherethrough at least a portion of the
6 supply of gas provided by reaction of the pyrotechnic gas generant material can be
7 expelled from the tubular member,
8 wherein the elongated hollow tubular member is arcuate.

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8. (Amended) An inflation assembly comprising:
an inflator comprising an elongated hollow tubular member containing
an elongated supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material reactable to produce a
supply of gas, the tubular member having a length to diameter ratio greater than 20
and including a plurality of longitudinally-spaced apart gas exit orifices wherethrough
at least a portion of the supply of gas provided by reaction of the pyrotechnic gas
generant material can be expelled from the tubular member and
an elongated diffuser device secured adjacent the inflator for directing
at least a portion of gas expelled from the inflator into an associated inflatable device.

11. (Amended) The inflation assembly of claim 13 additionally
comprising an associated inflatable device wherein the associated inflatable device
comprises an inflatable curtain airbag cushion.

13. (Amended) An inflation assembly comprising:

an inflator comprising an elongated hollow tubular member containing an elongated supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material reactable to produce a supply of gas, the tubular member having a length to diameter ratio greater than 20 and including a plurality of longitudinally-spaced apart gas exit orifices wherethrough at least a portion of the supply of gas provided by reaction of the pyrotechnic gas generant material can be expelled from the tubular member and

an elongated discharge treatment element secured with the inflator at selected positions along the respective lengths of the inflator and the discharge treatment element, the discharge treatment element effective to treat at least a portion of the gas expelled from the inflator contacting thereagainst and to deform to create spaced apart gas flow paths between the inflator and the treatment element, the gas flow paths spaced apart along the respective lengths of the inflator and the treatment element, the treatment element also directing at least a portion of gas expelled from the inflator into an associated inflatable device.

21. (Amended) A method of inflating an inflatable device, the method comprising:

reacting an elongated supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material within an elongated hollow tubular member of an inflator having a length to diameter ratio greater than 20 to produce a supply of gas along the length of the tubular member, and

expelling at least a portion of the supply of gas through selected locations spaced along the length of the inflator,

wherein, subsequent to expulsion from the tubular member, the method additionally comprises:

treating at least a portion of supply of expelled gas to form a treated gas, the treating step including,

contacting expelled gas onto an elongated treatment element adjacent the inflator and

deforming the treatment element to create spaced apart gas flow paths between the inflator and the treatment element, the gas flow paths spaced apart along the respective lengths of the inflator and the treatment element; and

directing the treated gas through the spaced apart gas flow paths into the inflatable device.

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22. (Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein the elongated supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material reacts substantially simultaneously.

23. (Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein the treated gas is directed through the spaced apart gas flow paths into an inflatable curtain airbag cushion inflatable device.

24. (Amended) A method of inflating an inflatable device, the method comprising:

reacting an elongated supply of pyrotechnic gas generant material within an elongated hollow tubular member of an inflator having a length to diameter ratio greater than 20 to produce a supply of gas along the length of the tubular member, and

expelling at least a portion of the supply of gas through selected locations spaced along the length of the inflator,

wherein, prior to reaction of the pyrotechnic gas generant material, the hollow tubular member is bent to conform to an associated inflator-accepting site in an automotive vehicle in which the inflator is placed.